

# Department of Water and Power the City of Los Angeles

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June 11, 1996

Dr. Robert P. Ghirelli  
California Regional Water  
Quality Control Board  
Los Angeles Region  
101 Centre Plaza Dr.  
Monterey Park, CA 91754-2156

Dear Dr. Ghirelli:

## Pacoima Area Groundwater Investigation

The Los Angeles Department of Water and Power (DWP) has recently become aware of a number of facilities that are located in the Pacoima area of the San Fernando Basin (SFB) and that have reported significant groundwater contamination beneath their properties. Through the Watermaster of the Upper Los Angeles River Area and your staff, the DWP has learned that the following facilities have filed reports that include on-site groundwater quality data with the California Regional Water Quality Control Board (RWQCB):

Holchem, Incorporated  
Price-Pfister, Incorporated  
Kleinert Industries

These facilities are located in the vicinity of the 118 Freeway and San Fernando Road and also upgradient of the Verdugo Fault as shown in Figure 1.

The following is a summary of the maximum contaminant concentrations reported for primary constituents of concern:

Facility	TCE	PCE	1,1,1 - TCA	1,1 - DCE
Holchem	12,000 (8/31/95)	3,900 (8/31/95)	7,600 (8/31/95)	330 (8/31/95)
Price-Pfister	195 (12/21/88)	1,900 (9/4/90)	4,370 (10/3/89)	808 (10/3/89)
Kleinert	329 (3/22/90)	1,100 (3/22/90)	1,300 (3/22/90)	98 (3/22/90)

NOTES: TCE is Trichloroethylene  
PCE is Perchloroethylene  
TCA is Trichloroethane  
DCE is Dichloroethylene  
All concentrations are in µg/L  
( ) indicates sampling date

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The DWP understands that shortfalls in funding and resources have hindered the RWQCB in pursuing comprehensive investigations of these and other facilities that are potential sources of groundwater contamination in the SFB (see Figure 1). Further, the Pacoima area is located outside of the original National Priorities List sites in the SFB that were established in the mid-1980s by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) and that were based primarily on the locations of major production well fields.

However, these subject facilities and other possible sources of significant groundwater contamination are located upgradient of the DWP's Tujunga and Rinaldi-Toluca Well Fields and pose a potentially serious threat to their long-term use.

As you are aware, the DWP has met with the EPA, the Watermaster, the California Department of Toxic Substance Control, as well as the RWQCB to coordinate the investigative efforts to address these facilities and to characterize the contamination in the SFB caused by these facilities. A remediation project for this area of the SFB may be determined necessary to ensure the DWP's continued use of its primary well fields in the SFB.

Currently, the DWP is proceeding to install two monitoring wells in locations downgradient of the subject facilities (one upgradient and one downgradient of the Verdugo Fault) that will provide data to characterize this portion of the SFB and its contamination. These two monitoring wells are to be installed in the fall 1996 under the same contract that is to install the monitoring wells for the East Valley Water Recycling Project.

The DWP plans to submit the data collected from these proposed monitoring wells to the RWQCB and is anticipating the RWQCB's continued participation in this cooperative effort among the regulatory agencies to address the groundwater contamination in this area of the SFB.

Dr. Robert D. Ghirelli

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If you require further information, please call Mr. Ernest F. Wong at (213) 367-0847.

Sincerely,

ORIGINAL SIGNED  
ROBERT W. CARR

FOR  
JAMES F. WICKSER  
Assistant General Manager  
Water Services

Enclosure

c: Mr. Hank Yacoub, RWQCB  
Mr. Roy Sakaida, RWQCB  
Ms. Vera Melnyk-Vecchio, DHS  
Mr. Greg Holmes, DTSC  
Mr. Melvin L. Blevins  
Mr. Ernest F. Wong